

Personality and responses to the coronavirus pandemic

Public registration



* Overview

la Files

Wiki

fl. Components a

% Links ll

— Analytics

!h Comments a

,,

<

Summary

Provide a narrative summary of what is contained in this registration or how it differs from prior registrations. If this project contains documents for a preregistration, please note that here.

General Background

The literature on general personality and physical health has focused primarily on broad health outcomes and, to an extent, on specific health behaviors. Responses to a pandemic, particularly with regard to hygiene and social distancing, have not been examined. The literature on psychopathy and the dark triad has linked these characteristics to risk-taking and, in few studies, to physical health outcomes, and there is an increasing interest in psychopathy, the dark triad, and everyday behavior. These traits have not yet been linked to hygiene and social distancing in a pandemic. Finally, personality has been linked to responses to political and commercial messaging, but not to public health messaging. The emergent coronavirus pandemic presents an opportunity to test hypotheses in this area at a time when most people in the U.S. are at least somewhat informed about the pandemic and are still adapting to new demands for social distancing, increased hygiene, and public health messages.

The study being registered will link general personality (the Big Five), the triarchic psychopathy model, and the dark triad to self-reported current and intended hygiene and social distancing, to self-reported endorsement of intent to harm others by spreading the infection, and to the personal appeal of public health messaging about how to protect oneself and others from the virus. Specific predictions are listed following the method description.

Method Basics

Research participants will be up to 500 Mechanical Turk Workers, to be compensated \$1.5 for a 15-min. survey. The survey will consist of ad hoc questionnaires about hygiene, social distancing, social and self-protective behaviors, intent to harm others, the mini-IPIP scales (Donnellan et al., 2006), Abbreviated Psychopathy Measure (Semel, 2018), Short Dark Triad scales (Paulhus, 2014), and brief scales to measure the persuasiveness, likelihood to take seriously, and likelihood to impact behavior of each of five public health messages. The messages have been written ad hoc and based on theory to use language that would especially appeal to or be ego-syntonic with

Contributors

Description

ti'

Adaptive and Dark Personality in the Covid-19 Pandemic: Predicting Health-behavior Endorsement and the Appeal of Public-health Messages

Registration type

Open-Ended Registration

Date registered

March 19, 2020

Date created

March 19, 2020

Registered from

Category

ii, Project

Registration DOI

No DOI assigned

Publication DOI

No publication DOI

Subjects

Psychology

Social and Behavioral Sciences

theory to use language that would especially appeal to or be ego-syntonic with narcissistic/Machiavellian, conscientious/overcontrolled, agreeable/compassionate, avoidant/contamination-averse, and extraverted/sociable personalities. Composite scores will be created from the personality questionnaires according to their conventional scoring guidelines. Composite scores will be created for the health-related questionnaire to create the following variables: Current social distancing; current hygiene; intent to socially distance; intent for hygiene; willingness to harm others; message appeal (separately for each of the five messages). The correlational analyses linking personality variables to the health-related composites will control for age, sex, and the extent to which participants report having chronic health conditions that may make them especially susceptible to coronavirus (on a scale from 0-2).

Power and Data Cleaning

Partial correlations will be considered significant at $p \leq .01$ (one-tailed). This corresponds to .85 power at $\alpha = .01$ (one-tailed) for an $r = .16$ with $N = 430$. We will attempt to obtain valid data from up to 500 participants based on budget limitations. Realistically, we expect that approximately 60 out of 500 participants will provide data with questionable validity. This will be determined through the use of validity and consistency check and survey-completion times. We will plot the survey-completion times and look for an inversion point that distinguishes extremely fast completion times from more realistic completion times. We anticipate excluding the participants with the 25 lowest completion times, but we must inspect the actual completion-time data before committing to this decision. We will examine responses to three pairs of inconsistency check questions, to three validity questions (e.g., I am answering these questions truthfully), and to three questions expected to produce nearly constant responses. We will examine the distribution of these inconsistency/validity data and exclude extremely inconsistent/invalid responses. We anticipate excluding participants (probably around 50-60) who fail 2-3 of the inconsistency check and 2-3 of the validity checks, but we must inspect the actual inconsistency/validity data before committing to this decision. We do not anticipate engaging in other data cleaning or in the identification or selection of outliers.

Specific Predictions

Self-reported inclination to engage in social distancing will correlate with:

- Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Neuroticism, Boldness (negatively), Disinhibition (negatively), and Psychopathy (negatively)

Self-reported inclination to engage in hygiene will correlate with:

- Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Disinhibition (negatively), Meanness (negatively)

Self-reported actual engagement in social distancing will correlate with:

- Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Extraversion (negatively), Neuroticism, Boldness (negatively), Disinhibition (negatively)

Self-reported actual engagement in hygiene practice will correlate with:

- Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Narcissism (because of a desirability bias) and Boldness (for the same reason)

Self-reported willingness to deliberately infect others will correlate with:

- Meanness, Disinhibition, Machiavellianism, Psychopathy

Finally, appeal of the five public-health messages will correlate differentially with the traits:

The narcissistic/Machiavellian message: Narcissism, Meanness, Machiavellianism.

Health Psychology

Personality and Social Contexts

Affiliated institutions

This registration has no affiliated institutions

Licence

CC-By Attribution 4.0 International

Tags

abbreviated measure of psychopathy

coronavirus Covid-19

dark triad disinhibition

endangering others

extended parallel process model

five-factor model

health behavior

health-risk behavior

Infectious respiratory disease

Machiavellianism meanness

pandemic psychopathy

public-health messaging

respiratory disease

schema-congruency theory

short dark triad

biarchic model of psychopathy

Citation

Psychopathy;

The conscientious/overcontrolled message: Conscientiousness and Disinhibition {negative};

The agreeable/compassionate message: Conscientiousness, Agreeableness, Narcissism {negative}, Machiavellianism {negative}, Psychopathy (negative), and Meanness {negative};

The avoidant/fearful message: Neuroticism and Boldness {negative}

The extraverted message Extraversion, Boldness, and Openness.

How does this summary differ from prior registrations?

There are no prior registrations of similar projects. This is a unique project that takes advantage of the emergent coronavirus pandemic. The IRSp proposal was submitted on March 19, 2020, and data collection is expected to take place before the end of March, 2020 {pending IRS and budget approval}.

Add supplemental files or additional information

No files selected

Copyright © 2011-2020 Center for Open Science | Terms of Use | Privacy Policy | Status | API
TOP Guidelines | Reproducibility Project: Psychology | Reproducibility Project: Cancer Biology

''fif{i